

WILLIAM VANHORN HOUSE
(Lester Minkel House)
Taylorsville Road
Upper Makefield
Bucks County
Pennsylvania

HABS NO. PA-5596

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PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Pennsylvania	COUNTY Bucks	TOWN OR VICINITY Upper Makefield
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) WILLIAM VANHORN HOUSE		HABS NO. PA-5596
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Lester Minkel House		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Taylorsville Road		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) ca. 1772 & 1801-1820	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL; INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) A good example of a Bucks County farmhouse constructed of stone, and with exceptional detailing inside and out. It consists of a early plastered stone section with a later, early 19th cen. stone, side-hall-and-double-parlor plan, and frame summer kitchen section.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) side-hall-and-double-parlor plan stone house with Federal period trim		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) plastered stone original section, with random stone main block		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Main block- 2-1/2 story, three-bay, two-pile, attached to smaller 2-1/2 story, three-bay, one-pile section, with one-story frame kitchen section.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE large stone quoining, elaborate frontispiece with arched doorway flanked by arched side-lights, under a single pediment, fanlight above door, raised panel shutters, round date-stone alcove in west gable end of main block.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) three-run, open string, open well stairway with chair-rail to mirror balustrade, raised panel fireplace wall in parlor, Federal mantel w/ triglyph & metope ornamentation, raised panel doors with old suffolk latch hardware, chair rail (some triglyph & metope)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES The original plastered stone section is believed to have been the home of Bernard Vanhorn, and the main block to have been built by his son sometime between 1801 and 1820.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE good condition, used as a private residence		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Described in 1837 ad for its sale as "...stone mansion house, 33 by 20 feet, two rooms and an entry on the first floor, 4 rooms and an entry on the second floor, and a large garret; a kitchen on the west end, 22 by 20 feet, 2 rooms on the first floor; and also a kitchen on the east end, 14 by 12 feet."		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Bucks County Conservancy Register of Historic Places form, Jeffery Marshall, April 1985.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION C. Lavoie, HABS historian		DATE March 1991